

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of a first Office Action from the United States Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the continuing application captioned above. Twenty claims (that is, Claims 1-20) were pending at the time the application was examined. Of those twenty claims, Claims 17-20 were formally allowed, and only Claims 1-4 were rejected. The examiner rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). It was the examiner's position that those four claims were obvious, given the teachings of United States Patent No. 3,117,635 (Deerkowski), in view of the teachings of United States Patent No. 6,158,923 (Wheeler et al.). The examiner merely objected to Claims 5-16. It was her opinion that those twelve claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the action taken by the examiner, Applicant hereby amends Claim 1 to include therein the limitations of Claim 5. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 6 has been amended to change the dependency from now-cancelled Claim 5 to Claim 1.

In view of the action taken by this document, it is sincerely believed that all claims now contain allowable subject matter and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any over payment to
Deposit Account 14-0620.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy P. Herrmann

By his attorney

Date

April 4, 2005

Lawrence M. Nawrocki

Lawrence M. Nawrocki

Reg. No. 29,333

NAWROCKI, ROONEY & SIVERTSON, P.A.

Suite 401, Broadway Place East

3433 Broadway St. N.E.

Minneapolis, MN 55413

Customer No. 05909

(612) 331-1464